Cites Oswald's alleged shot at him

Gen. Walker charges FBI coverup

By PAUL WEST
Staff Writer

Former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker of Dallas said Wednesday law enforcement authorities "covered up" Lee Harvey Oswald's attempt to kill him in 1963, seven months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

FBI records released Wednesday in Washington included an account by Oswald's widow, Marina, about the unsuccessful April 10, 1963, attempt on Walker's life.

Commenting on release of the documents, Walker noted that FBI agents questioned Oswald several months after the shooting incident in which a rifle bullet barely missed the former Army leader as he worked on his income tax return at his Dallas home.

"I think they (the FBI) knew he did it," said Walker. "That's one of the biggest coverups."

Walker said he doubted that information would be released concerning the FBI's role in any alleged coverup.

"Not if, they can help it," he said.

"Oswald was known, there's no doubt in my mind, to law enforcement authorities seven months before he killed Kennedy," said Walker. "Actually the Russians were using Oswald. They protected Oswald for seven months."

Former Maj. Gen. Walker . . .
. . . 'FBI knew Oswald did it'

"Of course, it was not in the best interests of the Warren Commission at the time to find that Oswald was the one that attempted to assassinate me," he added. "Because that makes Oswald the first known criminal to kill a president."

In 1964 testimony before the Warren Commission, Oswald's widow said her "crazy" husband admitted trying to kill Walker, calling him "a very bad man . . . a fascist"

Walker said Wednesday he considers such statements from Oswald "an honor."

"I certainly have accomplished my purpose if he calls me a fascist, a Hitler or anything else," said the 68-year-old ultraconservative spokesman. "To get those words from that guy with his philosophy (is an honor)."

Walker, who disagrees with the Warren Commission conclusion that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald, believes Ruby was involved in the attempt on his (Walker's) life.

"I don't think anybody has proved otherwise," he said. "They wouldn't let my lawyer get to him (Ruby)."

Walker, currently on probation for a 1976 public lewdness charge, resigned his Army commission in 1961 after he was reprimanded for alleged political indoctrination of U.S. troops under his command in Germany.

A longtime speaker at rallies of the John Birch Society and other ultraconservative organizations, Walker in recent years has delivered his political messages through a weekly recorded telephone message and a signboard in the front yard of his Turtle Creek Boulevard home.

Walker was asked to comment on the release of 40,000 FBI records related to the Kennedy assassination and the accompanying upsurge in interest in the 1963 tragedy.

"I'm not hurting a bit," he replied. "Kennedy was assassinated. I wasn't. People deserve to know why he was assassinated, who by, what for and why.

"Nobody agrees with what they've been told, evidently (about the Kennedy assassination)," said Walker. "And I expect and suspect and consider it a necessity that the thing be haggled to a final conclusion."